

Application Serial No.: 10/044,923
Attorney Docket No.: 042846-0313083
Reply to Office Action

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for publishing information associated with a user, comprising the steps of:

determining an affinity value for the user with respect to a topical category, wherein the affinity value represents a strength of a relationship between the user and the category;

determining whether the affinity value crosses a predetermined threshold;

in response to the affinity value crossing the threshold, determining whether to publish information related to the relationship between the user and the category, wherein determining whether to publish the information comprises:

determining whether an affinity publication policy associated with the user indicates that the information should not be published without first receiving permission from the user to publish the information;

transmitting to the user a message that requests the user to submit a response that indicates whether or not the user wishes to have the information published if it is determined that the affinity publication policy indicates that the information should not be published without first receiving permission from the user;

determining whether the user submitted a response to the request within a predetermined period of time; and

performing a default publication action if the user does not submit the response before the predetermined period of time expires,

wherein the predetermined period of time is specified by the affinity publication policy associated with the user, and

wherein the predetermined period of time is set by the user in the affinity publication policy.

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2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the default publication action is specified by the affinity publication policy associated with the user.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 2, wherein the default publication action includes either (i) publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category, or (ii) not publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3, wherein publishing the information comprises updating a profile associated with the user such that the profile indicates that the user has an affinity for the category.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3, wherein the default publication action includes publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category, and notifying the user that the information was published.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the default publication action includes either (i) publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category, or (ii) not publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3, wherein the default publication action includes not publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category, and notifying the user that the information will not be published.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 6, wherein the default publication action includes publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category, and notifying the user that the information was published.

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9. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 6, wherein the default publication action includes not publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category, and notifying the user that the information will not be published.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined threshold is set by the user.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 10, wherein the predetermined threshold is specified by the affinity publication policy.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined threshold is specified by the affinity publication policy.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined threshold is set by an administrator.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 14, wherein the predetermined threshold is specified by the affinity publication policy.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein determining an affinity value for the user with respect to the category comprises monitoring the user's interaction with a set of one or more stored documents.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein determining an affinity value for the user with respect to the category comprises mining electronic mail messages sent to and from the user.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein determining an affinity value for the user with respect to the category comprises receiving a metric value input manually by an administrator.

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19. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein determining an affinity value for the user with respect to the category comprises receiving a metric value input manually by the user.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 16, wherein the set of one or more stored documents are managed by a knowledge management system.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 20, wherein the knowledge management system determines a master category list, and wherein the category is included in the master category list.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 21, wherein the predetermined threshold is different for different categories included in the master category list.

23. **(Previously Presented)** A system for publishing, comprising:
affinity discovery module that function to discover one or more affinities of the user,

wherein the discovering an affinity includes (i) determining an affinity value for the user with respect to a topical category, the affinity value representing a strength of a relationship between the user and the category, and (ii) determining whether the affinity value crosses a predetermined threshold;

an affinity publication policy associated with the user; and
affinity publishing module that manages the publication of the discovered affinities,

wherein managing the publication of a discovered affinity includes (i) transmitting to the user a message that requests the user to submit a response that indicates whether or not the user wishes to have the affinity published, (ii) determining whether the user submitted a response to the request within a predetermined period of time, and

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(iii) performing a default publication action if the user does not submit the response before the predetermined period of time expires,

wherein the predetermined period of time is specified by the affinity publication policy associated with the user, and the predetermined period of time is set by the user in the affinity publication policy.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 23, further comprising a storage system that stores the affinity publication policy associated with the user.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 24, wherein the storage system stores a user profile associated with the user.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 25, wherein the affinity publishing module publishes the affinities of the user by updating the user profile.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 23, wherein the default publication action is specified by the affinity publication policy.

28. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 27, wherein the default publication action includes either (i) publishing the affinity, or (ii) not publishing the affinity.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 28, wherein the default publication action includes either (i) publishing the affinity and notifying the user that the affinity was published, or (ii) not publishing the affinity and notifying the user that the affinity will not be published.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 23, wherein the default publication action includes either (i) publishing the affinity, or (ii) not publishing the affinity.

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31. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 30, wherein the default publication action includes either (i) publishing the affinity and notifying the user that the affinity was published, or (ii) not publishing the affinity and notifying the user that the affinity will not be published.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 23, wherein the predetermined threshold is set by the user.

33. **(Previously Presented)** A computer program product for publishing information associated with a user, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

- determining an affinity value for the user with respect to a topical category, wherein the affinity value represents a strength of a relationship between the user and the category;

- determining whether the affinity value crosses a predetermined threshold;

- in response to the affinity value crossing the threshold, determining whether to publish information related to the relationship between the user and the category, wherein determining whether to publish the information comprises:

- determining whether an affinity publication policy associated with the user indicates that the information should not be published without first receiving permission from the user to publish the information;

- transmitting to the user a message that requests the user to submit a response that indicates whether or not the user wishes to have the information published if it is determined that the affinity publication policy indicates that the information should not be published without first receiving permission from the user;

- determining whether the user submitted a response to the request within a predetermined period of time; and

- performing a default publication action if the user does not submit the response before the predetermined period of time expires,

- wherein the predetermined period of time is specified by the affinity publication policy associated with the user, and

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wherein the predetermined period of time is set by the user in the affinity publication policy.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the default publication action is specified by the affinity publication policy.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 34, wherein the default publication action includes either (i) publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category, or (ii) not publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category.

36. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 35, wherein the default publication action includes either (i) publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category, or (ii) not publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the default publication action includes either (i) publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category and notifying the user that the information was published, or (ii) not publishing the information related to the relationship between the user and the category and notifying the user that the information will not be published.

38. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the publishing the information comprises updating a profile associated with the user to indicate that the user has an affinity for the category.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the predetermined threshold is set by the user.

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40. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the predetermined threshold is specified by the affinity publication policy.

41. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the predetermined threshold is specified by the affinity publication policy.

42. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the predetermined threshold is set by an administrator.

43. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 42, wherein the predetermined threshold is specified by the affinity publication policy.

44. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 33, wherein determining an affinity value for the user with respect to the category comprises mining electronic mail messages sent to and from the user.

45. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 33, wherein determining an affinity value for the user with respect to the category comprises monitoring the user's interaction with a set of one or more stored documents.

46. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 33, wherein determining an affinity value for the user with respect to the category comprises receiving a metric value input manually by an administrator.

47. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 33, wherein determining an affinity value for the user with respect to the category comprises receiving a metric value input manually by the user.

48. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 45, wherein the set of one or more stored documents are managed by a knowledge management system.

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49. **(Previously Presented)** The computer program product of claim 48, wherein the knowledge management system determines a master category list, and wherein the category is included in the master category list.

50. **(Cancelled)**